Claims:

1. A process for preparing a 2-aminoalcohol of formula

$$R^1$$
 R^1
 R^2
 R^2
 R^2
 R^2
 R^2
 R^2

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wherein R¹, R¹, R² and R², independently from each other, are H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkenyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkynyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkenyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl-lower alkyl, aryl-lower alkenyl, or aryl-lower alkynyl, or

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 R^1 and R^2 , R^1 and R^2 , $R^{1'}$ and R^2 or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ taken together with the two carbon atoms to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system, or

R¹ and R¹ or R² and R² taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system,

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wherein at least one of R¹, R¹, R² and R² is not H, and

 R^5 and R^6 , independently of each other, are H or a substituent of an amino group, wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H,

comprising treating a 1,2-epoxide of formula (II)

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^1 & 2 & R^2 \\
\hline
R^{1'} & O & R^{2'}
\end{array}$$

wherein R¹, R¹, R² and R² are as above

with an amine of formula R⁵NHR⁶ wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are as above in the presence of a magnesium halide catalyst.

- 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the amine of formula R⁵NHR⁶ is allylamine, diallylamine, benzylamine, dibenzylamine or trimethylsilyl amine and the magnesium halide catalyst is magnesium bromide diethyl etherate.
- 3. A compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{11}O \\ \\ HO \\ \\ NH_2 \end{array} \quad X$$

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group,

15 and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

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4. The compound of claim 3 wherein the compound is (3R,4S,5R)-5-amino-3-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

5. A compound of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c|c} R^{11}O & COOR^{12} \\ \hline HO & XI \\ NR^5R^6 \end{array}$$

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group, R^{5} and R^{6} , are, independently, H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl or aryl,

wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

- 6. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound is (3R,4S,5R)-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester
- 7. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5-formylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-en carboxylic acid ethylester

8. A compound of the formula

$$R^{11}O$$
 $COOR^{12}$ R^4R^3N XII NR^5R^6

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group, substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group, R^5 and R^6 , are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H, and

 R^3 and R^4 are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group, wherein R^3 and R^4 are not both H,

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5S)-4-acetylamino-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethyl propoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

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- 10. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5S)-4-amino-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.
- 11. A compound of the formula

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wherein

R⁵ and R⁶ are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are not both H, and

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 R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group, R^{12} is an alkyl group, and R^{13} is a sulfonyl group,

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

- 5 12. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5 formylamino-4-methanesulfonyl-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.
 - 13. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5-amino-4-methanesulfonyl-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester methansulfonate (1:1).